The Gfebs Times

The latest on the Army's new financial ERP

GFEBS

Interview with COL Simon L. Holzman
New GFEBS Project Manager

KINGSTOWNE, Va. — On June 26, 2008, GFEBS hosted an Assumption of Charter Ceremony in Kingstowne, VA to recognize COL Simon L. Holzman as the board selected GFEBS Project Manager. An Assumption of Charter is comparable to a Change in Command Ceremony in the Army, where a traditional military unit the "colors" pass from the outgoing commander to the incoming commander. In the Assumption of Charter ceremony, the program "charter" represents the "colors."

COL Holzman brings with him over 25 years of military service, experience that will prove to be a valuable asset to the GFEBS Project. Upon graduating from the United States Military Academy, COL Holzman served as a Rifle Platoon Leader, Scout Platoon Leader, and Company Executive Officer with the 2/4 Infantry, 56th Field Artillery Brigade (Pershing), Germany. He has also served tours as the Executive Officer for Software Development Center - Washington (SDC-W); Assistant Product Manager, Combat Service Support Command System (CSSCS); Senior Program Analyst and Executive Officer for Acquisition and Support Program Analysis Division (AS-PAD), Program Analysis and Evaluation (PA&E); and as the first Product Manager Defense Communications Systems – Europe. COL Holzman's scholastic background includes a Master of Business Administration (MBA) and a Master of Science (MS) degree in Software Systems Engineering, as well as Acquisition Level III certification in program management, software systems, and Systems Planning, Research, Development and Engineering.

The GFEBS Times staff sat down with

PEO EIS Gary Winkler presents COL Simon L. Holzman with the GFEBS Charter.

COL Holzman for a few questions before he took the GFEBS reigns on June 26:

GFEBS Times: What is your motto for leadership?

COL Holzman: When I entered the Army, its motto at the time was *BE... KNOW... DO*. *BE* includes values and attributes that shape character. Army Values are Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage. Attributes include the Warrior Ethos and Professional Competence. *KNOW* implies that knowledge shapes a leader's identity and is reinforced by action. *DO* means to act, influence others, operate and improve. As the leader for the GFEBS Project I will set the example, communicate my vision and intent, and motivate and lead. LTG(R) Yakavac once said: "Take care of the people and they will take care of the mission."

GFEBS Times: COL Holzman, as you begin your role as GFEBS Project Manager, what are you most encouraged about?

Pilot Trainees Help Get GFEBS Off the Ground

KINGSTOWNE, Va. — From June 16 through July 11 the GFEBS Office in Kingstowne, VA is conducting the Pilot Training Program. 30 participants from across the country were selected by the GFEBS functional team as representatives of the end user audience for Release 1.2. The attendees come from all regions of Installation Management Command (IMCOM (Headquarters, Southeast, Northeast and Europe), Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS), Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space Force Close Combat Weapon Systems (PEOMS CCWS), US Army Training & Doctrine Command (TRADOC), US Army Forces Command (FORSCOM), Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC), Army National Guard (ARNG), US Army Network Enterprise Technology Command (NETCOM) and United States Army Reserve (USAR).

This initial list was selected based on the individuals' expertise in the Army's current business process and their limited prior-knowledge of the GFEBS program. The Pilot Trainee's experiences range from financial analysts and accountants to plant maintenance experts and realty specialists. Each participant was aligned to role-based training "tracks" for Pilot Training.

There are two main goals of the Pilot Training program. First, Pilot Trainees will be validating that GFEBS training courses are clear, accurate and without grammatical error. If an error is found, within the course, or within the system, participants will report them to the GFEBS team to be fixed before training is deployed to the entire GFEBS Release 1.2 group of end users. The second goal of Pilot Training is to confirm that GFEBS training modules teach comprehensive and sufficient information so that users can perform their roles within the new system.

Pilot Training is scheduled to conclude on 11 July. Once Pilot Training is complete, the same 30 individuals will participate in GFEBS User Test from 14 July through 8 August. During User Test, the participants will test their knowledge

On the Road with GFEBS

Representatives from GFEBS will be attending several roadshows and conferences to provide overview briefings of the program and offer technology demonstrations:

| **16** July | DFAS Indianapolis Year End Conference, Indianapolis, IN | **23** July | Military District of Washington Roadshow, Ft. McNair, DC | **30** July | ACC E-Business Conference, St. Louis, MO |

GFEBS Praised in Security Test & Evaluation Exercise

KINGSTOWNE, Va. — On June 13th, the GFEBS Project passed another significant milestone in the successful completion of the Security Test and Evaluation (ST&E) exercise. The event was conducted by representatives of the US Army Information System Engineering Command (ISEC) at the Primary Data Center (PDC) at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama. The successful ST&E effort is a critical element in GFEBS working to obtain certification and accreditation in pursuit of the Authority to Operate (ATO).

GFEBS received a significant "thumbs up" and confirmation of the system's Primary Data Center infrastructure build as well as its supporting documentation and procedures. Specifically ISEC noted that GFEBS' Security Technical Implementation Guide (STIG) compliance posture "is extremely good", the projects' Change/Configuration Management process "is detailed, thorough, and is in use", and the documentation is "a model for other organizations to emulate". That is high praise in the world of Information Assurance! The GFEBS team began the product test in March, and will complete a series of three "passes" of product test by the end of June. During the first pass, the testers ensured that the system was properly configured. The team completed this first pass, filing, examining, and fixing System Investigation Requests (SIR), also known as defects or bugs.

This level of success did not come by accident; it was the culmination of months of hard work and coordination across teams and locations. It was yet another example of the successes GFEBS can achieve when team members focus on results rather than organization.

$ TIP JAR

Quick tips that assist end users with the implementation of GFEBS.

During Release 1.2 and 1.3 GFEBS will replace STANFINS and CAPS. Some of the modifications that will occur as a result of that system change:

> GFEBS is a Paying Office for commercial and vendor pay. The GFEBS DODAAC is HQ0490. The Address for GFEBS as a paying office is: DFAS-IN, VP GFEBS 8899 E. 56th St., Indianapolis IN 46249-3800
>
> GFEBS has its own Fiscal Station Number (FSN) – 021001
>
> GFEBS will be disbursing out of DFAS Clevland with the Disbursing Station Symbol Number (DSSN) - 8522

This month's tip comes from Héctor Colón, GFEBS Functional Team Lead, and is specifically important for Contracting Offices and Resource Managers.

Pilot Training

of the system, and the skills they have learned in Pilot Training to see if they can perform their GFEBS roles with minimal assistance from GFEBS personnel. During User Test they will not only verify the success of the training curriculum, but will provide feedback on the system itself.

The Pilot Training and User Test participants play a critical role in the successful implementation of GFEBS for Release 1.2. The feedback they provide on the quality of GFEBS training will help ensure that Release 1.2 end users across the country have the most comprehensive training and a properly functioning system for the October 2008 go-live.

Interview with COL Holzman

COL Holzman: The Army Senior Leadership and Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) support this program which is a big plus for any Major Automated Information System (ACAT 1) initiative. In fact, I have not seen another program receive the continuous top-level support that the Army has devoted to GFEBS. The Assistant Secretary of the Army, Financial Management and Comptroller (ASA(FM&C)) has been GFEBS' champion from the beginning. Through the GFEBS' Executive Steering Committee (ESC), ASA(FM&C) ensured active participation by all key Headquarters, Department of the Army (HQDA) staff elements, Army Commands (ACOMs), Army Service Component Command (ASCCs), Direct Reporting Units (DRUs), National Guard (NG), United States Army Reserves (USAR), and subordinate Subject Matter Experts (SMEs). Bottom line: The Army is vested in GFEBS' success. A second reason to be encouraged is that the GFEBS Project Management Office (PMO) is stacked with talent and has an "A-Team" Functional and Industry Partner co-located in the Kingstowne facility. A third reason, the PMO is leveraging lessons learned from industry and Navy Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) projects. Fourth, The Army Audit Agency (AAA) and Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC) are involved early in the program lifecycle as is Defense Finance and Accounting Systems (DFAS) and other key programs such as Global Combat Support System (GCSS-Army), Product Lifecycle Management Plus (PLM+), Logistics Modernization Program (LMP) and Theatre Enterprise-Wide Logistics System (TEWLS). Fifth, systems impacted by GFEBS and their process owners are collaborating with GFEBS to minimize issues. Finally, GFEBS will make a positive difference to the Army by providing Army decision makers with accurate, reliable, and timely business and financial information.

GFEBS Times: COL Holzman, as a career officer, how do you see the GFEBS program playing a role in "taking care of soldiers"?

COL Holzman: Today's Army is the best led, trained and equipped Army on the face of the Earth. Yet, the Army is constantly challenged to balance scarce resources among competing needs. We are at War, undergoing transformation at an unprecedented scale, in the midst of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) and Global rebasing, and increasing funding to support our Soldiers and their families' well-being. GFEBS will revolutionize the Army's ability to provide senior decision makers—for the first time—with accurate, reliable, and timely business and financial information and the wherewithal to be just as agile, efficient, and effective as the Warfighters it serves.